“Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.”

– Louisa May Alcott

As you move toward the end of the first semester, remember that without aspiring to go to college, you may not achieve your dream of a successful career. That is where it begins; you can do it.

Karen

5 Ways to Make Online Research Easier — from kidshealth.org

“Going online to do research when you’re writing papers and doing projects is a no-brainer. But all of the choices at your fingertips can seem overwhelming sometimes. Knowing how to evaluate and choose online resources can help you avoid headaches and wasted time.”

“Here are 5 ways to make researching online as easy and effective as possible:”

“1. Start at school. Ask your teachers or librarian which resources they’d recommend for your project. That way you can be sure the resources are school approved and the information is accurate.”

“2. Sort fact from fiction. Before you begin your research, make a list of the kinds of sites that are best for your topic. Government sites ending in .gov and educational sites ending in .edu are usually safe bets.”

“3. Search smart. Start with an established search engine, like Google or Bing. Although search engines often do a good job of guessing what you need, you can use specific search methods to narrow down your results.”

(Continued on Page 4)

Looking Past Today — by Phil Kenkel, TRIO Director @ NWMSU

There are a lot of days when I feel very accomplished to have just made it through the day. I am sure that you all can share stories of daily survival as well! While the old adage “take things one day at a time” rings true on certain days, it is important for you to be able to look beyond today when planning for your future. I realize that for many of you, envisioning yourself gainfully employed in a career that you enjoy seems like a million years away. Let me give you a word of advice – it will be here before you know it.

The steps you take today for planning for your future are very important. Enrolling in classes that challenge your mind, being involved in community/school organizations, assuming leadership roles and being involved in Upward Bound Math & Science are just a few of the things you can be doing today to help set the stage for your future. Do not miss out on opportunities to positively position yourself. If you believe that a successful and enjoyable career will simply appear when you are ready for it, then you will be in for a rude awakening down the road. You can never start too early developing the habits and motivation to fulfill your dreams. Start today planning and executing for your future and don’t let anyone or anything stand in the way of your goals. You are strong; you are talented; you are driven.

Best of Luck – Phil
October/November- College Planning Tips - from ICAN

Sophomores:

*Know yourself. What do you like to do, what are you good at and what do you value most? Make a list of your answers. The first step in career planning is self-discovery.

*Your mentor can assist you in high school and with the college search process. Make a point to meet with him/her regularly.

*College can be affordable. Try not to be put off by “sticker shock” and don’t drop colleges from your search because of the price. With financial aid, most college can make sure the “sticker price” is not your out-of-pocket cost.

-From: Iowa College Access Network

Juniors:

*Colleges receive thousands of admission applications each year. Be sure to meet with your high school counselor to help yours stand out from the crowd.

*Review websites and brochures from the colleges that you might want to attend.

*Check the entrance requirements of the colleges that you’re planning to apply to, and find out which test(s) you need to take.

*Look into campus visits. Some colleges host special visit days for juniors.

-From: Iowa College Access Network

Seniors:

*Be aware of deadlines. Begin or continue to send applications for admission. Most colleges accept online applications, and some may waive the application fee for applying online. Keep copies of paper applications and write down the date you submit online applications.

*Be aware of scholarship search and financial aid services that cost money. Much of the information is available at no cost. Check with your high school guidance office or search without charge on ICAN website.

*Request a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov for the FAFSA. Student and one parent will each need a PIN.

-From: Iowa College Access Network

Parents:

*Don’t let a poor economy derail your child’s college plans. Make sure you’re saving as much as you can, because most of the burden of college costs falls on you and your child. Sometimes paying for college means a change in lifestyle or finding alternative means of funding.

*Review the information you and your student gather on colleges and discuss the options. Work toward attainable goals and workable solutions. Before you know it, your child will be heading to college, and you will have played an important role.

-From: Iowa College Access Network

College:

Would you stride right up to a company president’s office to ask for a job without having been introduced in some way? Not likely. A cover letter serves the same purpose as that introduction – before your resume brashly states that you are the right person for the job, your cover letter eases into who you are and why you might be a good fit for the position.

A good cover letter should reveal:

* How well you communicate in writing. Make your sentences and paragraphs clear and to the point.

* Your level of professionalism. Write with respect for the reader’s time, intellect and purpose.

* Clues to your personality. Remain professional but allow some of your own personality to seep through.

-From: Iowa College Access Network
A new website for learning foreign languages is about to start up. A team of experts is ready to get to work – from the people who create the content to the people who write the computer programs that drive the site. But before the programmers can start, a systems analyst must design the best way for customers to interact with the site. She has to decide everything from how they’ll sign up and pay to how they’ll use the site to master new vocabulary throughout the online learning process.

Computer systems analysts create technology solutions for large and small businesses and other organizations. They start by deciding what hardware and software will be needed. They then develop or adapt software to meet those needs.

**Computer systems analysts create new computer systems and improve existing technology and business processes.**

**Career: Computer Systems Analysts- from bigfuture.collegeboard.org**

**Are you ready to...?**

* Work with managers to decide on a budget for a new system
* Prepare a project timeline
* Talk to users to find out what they need
* Design a system to meet those needs
* Write a description of the design
* Spend many hours “debugging” (working out the kinks of) a system

**It helps to be...**

attentive to details and to the needs of your clients but also able to consider the big picture. Systems analysts plan new computer systems from scratch and overhaul existing ones. Either way, they must do so on time and within budget.

**Did You Know...?**

Systems analysts who perform extensive tests on new products may be called software quality assurance (QA) analysts?

**Outlook**

Government economists expect jobs for computer systems analysts to grow faster than the average for all careers through 2020. Wireless technology will create a demand for more analysts.

Especially strong job growth is expected in the consulting field and in health care. A background in business or in the particular industry in which they are seeking work can help analysts find employment.

**Compensation**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the average yearly salary in 2011 of:

* **Computer Systems Analysts:**
  $82,320

**Make High School Count**

Preparation is the key to any career. To become a **Computer Systems Analyst**, you should:

* take as much advanced math as your high school offers.
* make the most of your science classes. They train you to think logically – a skill that will come in handy when you need to anticipate how users will use computer systems and find the best ways for those systems to respond to users.
* sign up for computer science classes as well as business and economics classes to become familiar with the world in which computer systems are used.
* build great writing and speaking skills in English, speech and drama so you’ll be ready to communicate with system users.
* consider attending computer science summer camp.

-bigtude: by the 2014 The College Board
5 Ways to Make Online Research Easier (cont. from pg. 1)

“4. Stay focused. When you’re ready to check out websites or go to search engines such as Google, log off your chat, Facebook and email (and turn off your phone!). That way, you’re not tempted to get lost in the surf. Just a few clicks can take you far from your topic.”

“5. Cite right. The format for citing online resources is different from print resources, so be sure to check the particular style your teacher wants you to use for Internet citations.”

“When you research online, it can be easy to copy and paste text, then forget to cite the source or go back and put the thought in your own words later. Just like teachers can recognize your voice in class, most can recognize your voice in your writing. Even accidental plagiarism can have serious consequences for your grades – so don't take a chance. Identify the text you’ve quoted and add the citation before moving on to the rest of your paper.”

(Read entire article at: www.kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/school/online_research.html#cat20179)


Continue to meet with your mentor and begin working on your project. The next report is due January 15, 2015.

About Our Organization…

Who are we?

A life-enhancing college-prep program that provides opportunities for capable and motivated high school students to gain the academic and life skills necessary to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

* 100% funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education
* Serving high school students from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri since 1992